

# Children's Newspaper

Every Wednesday—Fourpence

14th January, 1961

## THIRTY MILLION RECORDS

### Victor Silvester's steps to dancing fame

By Peter London

*When the sales of a disc reach a million the recording company presents the performer with a gold disc.*

*But what should be presented to a performer when his sales reach the 30 million mark? That was the pleasant problem which recently confronted the Columbia company, the highly successful performer being Victor Silvester, famous for 25 years, and still going strong.*

*Columbia decided to award him a Platinum Disc. Then they counted up again and found that the Silvester Long Playing records had passed the quarter-million mark, so they added a Silver Disc for good measure.*

*Peter London was at the celebration party and talked to Victor Silvester about his glittering career.*

THE pleasing strains of the Silvester Band are familiar to millions of people of all ages all over the world. They come from two grand pianos, accordion, tenor saxophone, violin, clarinet, bass, and drums, conducted in strict dance tempo by Victor Silvester himself.

Today Victor Silvester is one of the best-known figures in the world of dance music. But his early life and background contained no hints of his future career.

"I am the son of a vicar of Wembley, and he by no means approved of dancing," Victor told

by telling a white lie about his age, managed to join the Army in the First World War. He served right through it and finished with an Italian decoration, a wound in the leg, and the rank of subaltern—one of the youngest in the Army at the time.

He was such a keen soldier that the Army let him enter Sandhurst to train for a regular career. But he could not tolerate peacetime military college life, so decided to give it up.

#### Out of work

"One day, as I was out of a job and had nothing to do, a cousin of mine took me to a tea dance in a West End hotel," continued Victor. "Tea dances were then a new craze. At the end of the session the manageress came up to me and said she had been watching me dancing. Would I like a job as a dance host, a professional partner and instructor? On an impulse I said yes, though I had never had a dancing lesson in my life. But I had learned music at school, and sang in the choir, the first and last time that I sang in public."

This was the turning point in his life. He took this new job very seriously, learning all he could, and later going to Trinity College of Music to study the theory of music. All this, of course, was between dancing sessions.

"It was hard work," said Victor. "Once I fitted a pedometer to my leg and found that I had covered thirty miles in one day's dancing."

At the age of 22 Victor Sil-



This bright little chap is Tikki, a black Bush Baby from East Africa. A recent arrival at the London Zoo, Tikki is sure to make many friends.

vester and his partner won the world ballroom dancing championship. Two years later he opened his own studio and dancing school in London. (Today he runs 23 dance studios all over Britain.)

#### Successful book

Then bad luck came. He and his wife, a stage dancer whom he had met on the dance floor, were making a big success of a new and bigger studio when Victor Silvester got pneumonia. He was in bed for weeks, and work and the studios slowly petered out. But while he was recuperating, he wrote a book on modern ballroom dancing, which was a great success and put him back on his feet.

In 1934, bothered by the lack of dance records that provided strict ballroom tempo for his studio, Victor Silvester set about forming his own band to meet the need. The first gramophone company he approached rejected the

idea; but the second company thought they might try a couple of records as an experiment; he has been making two a week regularly for them ever since!

Victor Silvester's famous B.B.C. Dancing Club on radio was a wartime idea, just 20 years ago. With so many men and women stationed on lonely gun sites, airfields and camps, the B.B.C. thought of the idea of radio dancing lessons. Victor said he would try it, worked out a scheme of instruction, and has been providing it ever since. This week his Television Dancing Club entered its 14th year, probably the longest running programme in the world.

Victor Silvester likes playing chess, watching Chelsea play football, underwater swimming, and motoring (the number of his car is VS 1234.) He keeps fit by daily skipping, physical exercises—and dancing!

#### Long-range rescue

A New Zealand radio amateur recently overheard a distress call from a British yacht thousands of miles away off the coast of Mexico.

The yacht, *Yasme III*, was being sailed round the world by a crew of two—a Mr. Weil and his wife—who were busy baling out the sinking craft as they sent out the distress messages.

The New Zealander got in touch with Mexico City, and as a result a Mexican naval vessel was sent to the scene of trouble and towed *Yasme III* and her crew safely into harbour.

#### LUCKY DOWNPOUR

A freak rainstorm recently saved the greater part of a farmer's wheat crop in the Australian State of Victoria. Firefighters working in a temperature of 103 degrees stared in amazement as the heavy rain put out the fire for them. No less remarkable was the fact that no other rain was reported within an area of 100 square miles.



Victor Silvester

me. "But when I was a boy we used to be invited to parties given by the bishop for the children of clergy, and I remember I used to think dancing was soppy and stood around eating as many ices as I could."

A big lad, Victor ran away from boarding school at 14½ and



# THE EMPEROR FIRM ON HIS THRONE

## Haile Selassie survives short-lived revolution

By the C N Diplomatic Correspondent

Ethiopia, formerly called Abyssinia, came suddenly into the news at the end of last year because of a revolt against the Emperor, Haile Selassie. While he was away on a State visit to South America, rebel forces seized the reins of power. But their triumph was to prove short-lived.

WITHIN a few days the revolt had been crushed and the Emperor was back in his palace at Addis Ababa, 8,000 feet up in the mountains. His rule of "enlightened feudalism" had prevailed against enemies who believed his system to be out-of-date and undemocratic.

Short, straight-backed and bearded, Haile Selassie earned the respect of the world 25 years ago when he defended his country against hopeless odds during the Italian invasion. And he is still one of the most impressive figures in the African continent. No wonder he keeps his hold over the 18 million people in his mountain domain between the Middle East and tropical Africa.

### Island of Christianity

Haile Selassie claims to be the 325th Ruler (or Negus) of a line founded by King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba 3,000 years ago. His position as Emperor in a land which has been described as "an island of Christianity in a sea of paganism" is due to the conversion of Ethiopia to Christianity in the fourth century A.D. under Bishop Athanasius of Alexandria. When the Roman Empire broke up, Egypt came under Muslim influence and for centuries Ethiopia was cut off from the outside world—a remote, mysterious land, ruled over at one time (as legend has it) by the priest-king, Prester John.

Himself a figure that seems to belong to medieval legend, Haile Selassie (the name means Might of the Trinity) was born at Harrar in 1892.

His early education in a French

missionary school made him fluent in French, which he regards as his chief tongue next to his native Amharic, though he also speaks English. He is widely read in both French and English literature.

At the age of 16 he was made governor of a province, and in 1911, when he was 19, he married Waizaro ('Lady') Menen.

Through his mother Zauditu he was a grandson of the reigning emperor, called Menelek after the founder of his line. But there was another grandson, Lij Yasu, who was heir to the throne. When Menelek died in 1913 this grandson succeeded him.

Lij Yasu proved weak and unreliable and in 1916 was deposed by his cousin (the future emperor) with British help. The Empress Zauditu then ascended the throne and her son became regent with the title of Ras Tafari. He travelled widely abroad, studying Western ways. He became the Emperor Haile Selassie in 1930.

### War with Italy

Almost at once he incurred the enmity of Italy, then ruled by the Fascist dictator Mussolini. In the 19th century Italy had acquired the Red Sea colonies of Eritrea and Italian Somaliland as a foothold for the conquest of Ethiopia. But in 1896 the Italians were crushingly defeated by the Ethiopians at Adowa.

Mussolini was determined to wipe out the memory of this disaster. War broke out in October 1935. The Emperor appealed in vain to the League of Nations. After six months his army collapsed under the attacks



of an Italian army of half a million men, who used bombers and poison gas.

Coming to Britain with some of his family, the Emperor spent the next six years in Bath.

The tables were turned in May 1941, when Haile Selassie made a triumphant entry into Addis Ababa after British and Commonwealth troops had driven the Italians from Ethiopia.

In December 1950, under a United Nations resolution the former Italian colony of Eritrea became a self-governing unit federated with Ethiopia under Haile Selassie. The Emperor still exercises almost absolute power, despite limitations imposed on him by a constitution of 1955 which gave the vote to all men and women over 21 and set up two parliamentary chambers.

The recent rebellion was an attempt to reduce the Emperor's powers and, indeed, to depose him altogether.

## MONTH OF GLOOM

Country folk have always mistrusted a mild January. Even now, when January days are mild and sunny, you will hear it said: "We shall pay for this later," and our ancestors said much the same in rhyme:

*In January, if sun appear,  
March and April pay full dear.  
January Spring  
Not Worth a Pin.*

In the days before official weather forecasts were broadcast people had to depend upon their own observations. They were keen students of nature, and the weather lore gathered in this way was handed down from father to son.

A wet January was looked upon with as much foreboding as a mild one; hence the saying:

*January's flood,  
Never boded husbandman's good.*

It is easy to understand this apprehension, for January was the month when farmers hoped to sow much of their corn, especially oats, and, of course, sowing cannot be done in very wet weather.

There was one particular January day, the 25th (St. Paul's Day), which had a whole verse devoted to weather prophecy.

## NEWS FROM EVERYWHERE

### BIRD TRAPPED IN TREE

A forester climbed 70 feet up a tree at Orford, Suffolk, to rescue a hawk trapped in the branches.

Underwater swimmers are to search for Christian relics believed to have been thrown into the sea off Iona Island 400 years ago when the monastic buildings were dismantled.

Nottingham Corporation is fitting safety straps in all its public vehicles.

### FROG-DOG

A Swedish fox-terrier wears aqualung equipment and swims underwater with her master, an instructor at the Stockholm school for frogmen.

Bristol is to have a new college of science and technology costing nearly £4,000,000.

Pakistan has 9,000 doctors and only 2,700 nurses. The population is about 80 million.

Car ferry services at Dover this year will be able to handle up to 5,500 vehicles a day compared with 4,000 a day in 1960.

### \$200,000 MISSING

Farthings having ceased to be legal tender, the banks must hand over their stocks of them to the Royal Mint before 28th February. Some 200 million farthings are still unaccounted for.

A stretch of Roman road running below the line of London's Cannon Street has been discovered by archaeologists working on the site of St. Swithun's Church.

Last year was the wettest in England and Wales since 1872.

Using a boathook, airmen in a Felixstowe rescue helicopter caught a conger eel nearly seven feet long.

2,500,000 British holiday-makers went abroad last year.

Wolves have been raiding villages in northern Spain and attacking dogs, sheep, and poultry.

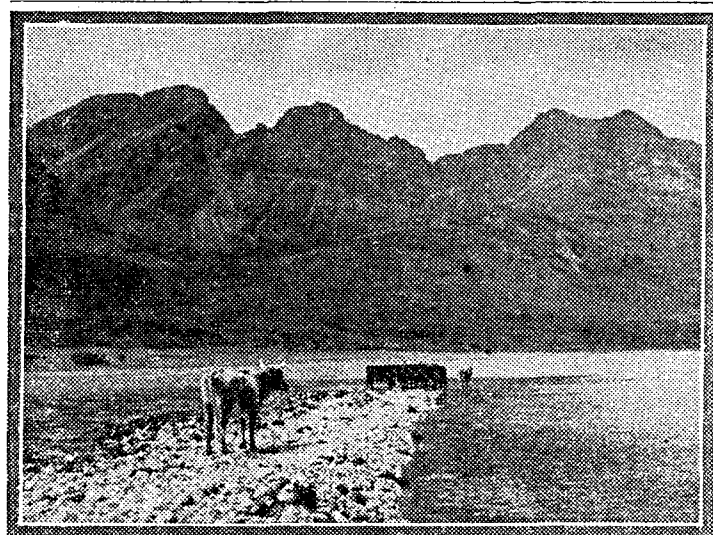
Remains of an elephant of 200,000 years ago have been unearthed during road work at Hackney, in north-east London.

The Oxford Committee for Famine Relief has made an emergency grant of £5,000 to provide milk for mothers and children in the Congo.

### OFF-STAGE



Anita Sarman is the attractive kitten in Turn Again Whittington, this season's pantomime at the London Palladium.



OUR HOMELAND

Loch Slapin in the Isle of Skye

## 'Plasticine'

THE  
'Start again'

TOY

What fun it is to make things in "Plasticine." And if it's not quite right—you can start again. Cut it, squeeze it, mould it, press it into a 1,000 shapes. A 1,001 shapes . . . . .

Start again . . . . .  
"Plasticine" for young and old.

Sole Manufacturers

Harbutt's Plasticine Ltd., Bathampton, Bath, Somerset.





## Washing the Duke's head



The Brave old Duke of York,  
He had two gallant men,  
They climbed up high to wash  
his head,  
And then climbed down again.

A picture taken recently when the  
Duke of York's column was being  
cleaned of its London grime.

## MORE HELP FOR MOTORISTS

The Automobile Association is  
to provide a new service for  
motorists in the shape of 68 Patrol  
Service Centres. Each centre will  
have its own team of radio-  
equipped patrols working on roads  
within a radius of about twelve  
miles, and will also be directly  
linked with a series of roadside  
telephone posts, placed at regular  
intervals and enabling motorists  
to get help even more quickly.

## SCOUTING FAMILY OF BELFAST

Every one of the six members  
of the MacCormac family of Bel-  
fast is in the Scout movement.  
Mr. Robert MacCormac is Scout-  
master of a new troop at Suffolk  
(near Dunmurry), and his wife is  
Assistant Cubmistress. Their  
eldest son, 17-year-old Victor, is  
Assistant Scoutmaster; Brian (16)  
is troop leader; Patricia (13) is a  
Girl Guide and the youngest boy,  
David, is a Wolf Cub.

## Folk dances at the Albert Hall

It will be song and dance time  
in a big way on Friday and  
Saturday at the Royal Albert Hall  
in London. The occasion will be  
the festival of the English Folk  
Dance and Song Society, which  
this year celebrates its 50th anni-  
versary. Over 400 dancers and  
musicians will be taking part in a  
programme which will range from  
clog dancing to ballet. Groups of  
dancers and singers from South  
America and Germany will also  
take part.

## Stone from old Whitby for American school

A stone from ancient Whitby  
Abbey is to cross the Atlantic to  
become the corner stone of a new  
building for the Whitby School at  
Greenwich, Connecticut. It is  
being sent in response to a request  
made by the American school to  
Whitby Urban Council, who have  
arranged the gift with the Ministry  
of Works, custodians of the  
Abbey.

Founded just over 1,300 years  
ago, Whitby Abbey enshrines the  
memory of two great names in our  
long island story. Its first abbess  
was St. Hilda, and one of its  
earliest monks was Caedmon, the  
first known English poet.

## A JUNK SETS SAIL



This fine model of a Chinese junk sets out from the shores of the  
Round Pond in Kensington Gardens, London. Paul Algar, who is  
giving a farewell push to his junk, took six months to build it.

# MR THERM'S ABC

Issued by the Gas Council.

Mr. Therm is one of the most  
hard-working people in Britain  
to-day. Here are just some of  
the good things he does.



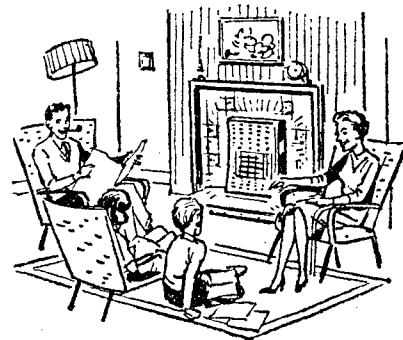
from fires which aren't burning the right sort of fuel. This smog is bad for health, and it spoils buildings. Soon it will be an offence for anyone to have a guilty chimney. Happily, people who use gas have no fear of being guilty. Gas (and its by-product, coke) are clean fuel.

**H** is for **HEATING**, no trouble at all where Mr. Therm is concerned. Gas heating, for the home, for industry and for office buildings is speedy and efficient. It gives all the heat you want, quickly and silently. It comes as radiant heat or background heat. **H** is also for **HEAT TREATMENT**, an important operation in heavy industry. In order to harden metals that have to stand up to rugged use—the tracks of earth-moving machinery for example—they are heated to a fantastic temperature, and suddenly cooled. And huge slabs of metal, before they're moulded by a giant press into the shape that's wanted, are heated in gas furnaces until they're as soft as putty.



dips all have their origin in Mr. Therm. He's a tremendous boon to farmers, market gardeners, and to the ordinary week-end gardener who wants to keep his flowers and vegetables free from pests. So next time you see a beautiful show of chrysanthemums or roses, thank Mr. Therm.

**I** is for **INDUSTRY**. We all know how important gas is in the home. But gas and its by-products are equally important in industry, in hundreds of different ways. In factories, bakeries, mills, engineering and steel works, gas provides the heat that is needed in each process. It plays a key part in heating factories, so that people can work in comfort, and it also cooks their meals for them! Mr. Therm helps to smelt iron, heat greenhouses, dry crops and warm soil! **I** is also for **INSECTICIDES**. Many of these are made from the by-products of coal when gas is being made at the gasworks. Weed killers, soil sterilisers, pest control materials, and sheep



## \* OUR GRAND COMPETITION

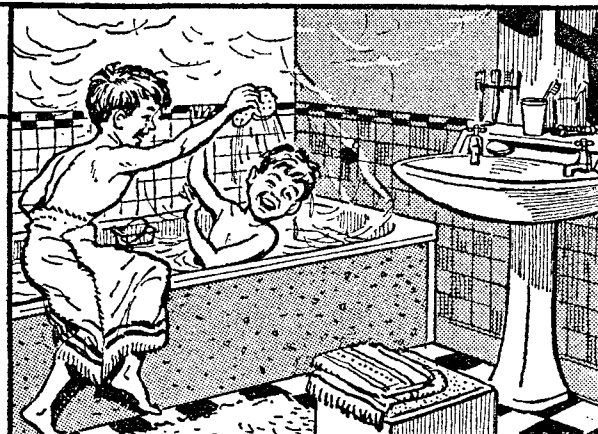
### HERE'S WHAT TO DO

Add one letter in place of each dot to complete the words in the panels—they are all objects to be found in the picture.

List the six answers neatly on a postcard, add your full name, age and address, then post it to: Mr. Therm's A.B.C. No. 3, Children's Newspaper, 3 Pilgrim Street, London, E.C.4 (Comp.). Mr. Therm will award £2 2s. Book Tokens for the three nearest correct entries (with writing according to age taken into consideration) received by Friday, 20th January.

### TIME ROCKET WINNERS

The jumbled word in our Time Rocket Competition No. 7 was CARBOLIC. The three winners are Janet Broadbent of Leeds, Paul Addicott of Bath, and Andrew Patterson of Poole.



T·O·T·B·R·S·	B·A·I·	T·O·E·
·O·A·	T·P	·A·H

# GAS SPELLS COMFORT \* IN EVERY HOME \*



# King of the Seas

New series about Sir Francis Drake

SIR FRANCIS DRAKE, perhaps the greatest of the Elizabethan sea captains, is to be the hero of a 39-part I.T.V. film series which goes into production at Boreham Wood studios in the near future.

I hear the stories will be centred on his expeditions to the Spanish

Main and the espionage he carried out for his queen. Drake's part in helping to defeat the Spanish Armada will, of course, be dealt with, too.

Mr. Val Parnell, of Associated Television, says the title of the series will be *King of the Seas*. At A.T.V. headquarters I was told that the stories will stick closely to historical fact. Much more is known about Sir Francis Drake than of such legend-entwined figures as Robin Hood and William Tell. "We hope this series will prove quite a useful history lesson," an A.T.V. spokesman told me. "Not only for young people, but grown-ups."

A number of actors have been considered for the part of the great sea dog. What must the actor look like? There are one or two contemporary portraits in existence, and we also have the evidence of the 16th-century historian John Stow. According to him Sir Francis Drake was "low of stature, of strong limbs, broad breasted, round headed, brown hair, full bearded; his eyes round, large, and clear; well favoured, fair, and of a cheerful countenance."

*King of the Seas* is expected to go on the air in September.



Sir Francis Drake on Plymouth Hoe



## A fortnight aboard the Ark Royal

A FORTNIGHT'S experiences in the Mediterranean on board the famous aircraft carrier *Ark Royal* were compressed into a remarkable 30-minute B.B.C. film just a year ago. Next Tuesday we can see it again.

Barry Edgar and Producer John Warrington arrived on the *Ark Royal* by helicopter. With a camera team, they were given the freedom of the immense ship by its commander.

The difficulty was to find a moment when the flight deck was free for filming. Aircraft were sometimes being hurled into the sky every 15 seconds and, as the film shows, were swarming around most of the time like bees.

These naval fighter aircraft land on the deck at over 120 m.p.h., which did not make the work of the camera team any easier—or safer!

## West Indian boy meets Great Aunt Jubilee

SAMMY, a West Indian boy who comes to England to live with his Uncle Joshua and Great Aunt Jubilee, is the hero of *Paradise Walk*, a four-part serial beginning on B.B.C. Junior TV next Sunday. It has been written and will be produced by Shaun Sutton.

Played by Dudley Hunt, Sammy runs into adventures from the very moment he sets foot on English soil. In fact, the first two days come as a complete shock to him because, through no fault of his own, he risks disgracing his uncle, his friends, and all his family.

Sammy's first English friend is an old tramp named Hornpipe (Nigel Arkwright), who is always spinning imaginary yarns about

his hair-raising exploits at sea.

Uncle Joshua, a kind-hearted man working as a garage hand, will be played by Errol John, a leading West Indian actor who has come over specially from Los Angeles for the serial. Great Aunt Jubilee, another warm character, is played by Gladys Taylor.



Errol John

*Paradise Walk* is full of odd personalities, many of whom may bring to mind some of Dickens' characters.

## LAST DIP WITH HANS AND LOTTE

ALTHOUGH Hans and Lotte Hass have given up making TV programmes, we can still enjoy recordings of their previous programmes. On Sunday B.B.C. Junior TV begins recordings of their last seven-part series.

Sunday's film was shot in the

Indian Ocean where they were diving from their marine research station, the yacht *Xarifa*. We see them going deeper and deeper to discover how far down the living coral can build reefs. They meet spider crabs, which make their own camouflage, and families of clown fish living in sea anemones.



Hans and Lotte Hass prepare for another underwater adventure

## PEEP INTO A PUBLIC SCHOOL

B.B.C. television cameras will be at Bradfield College, Berkshire, next Sunday for *Meeting Point* at 7 p.m. Richard Hoggart, the well-known author, will be talking to the boys, finding out about the way they live, and watching the headmaster in a religious discussion with some of the seniors. He will also put questions to the headmaster, trying to discover how public schools prepare boys for life.

Richard Hoggart, who began his education at a Council school is now Senior Lecturer in English at Leicester University.

## Their hobby is collecting cats

DIARMID CAMMELL should be quite at home playing the Scots boy Donald in *The Blackness*, the Associated-Rediffusion children's serial beginning next Tuesday, for he really is a Scot. At one time he lived with his parents in apartments in Edinburgh Castle. Now he is a pupil at the Lycées Français in London. He has appeared many times in B.B.C. Junior TV and was recently in Associated-Rediffusion's *Book Parade*. He is a brilliant chess player.

Mr. and Mrs. Owen, his "parents" in the new serial, are played by Kevin Stoney and Rosalie Westwater, who are husband and wife in real life. "This will be the first time we have

acted together since we first met in Dundee Repertory in 1951," said Rosalie Westwater.

The Stoney, who live in a West London flat, have an unusual hobby—collecting stray cats. "The dustbin breed—they're my favourites," said Kevin. "At the moment we have four."

*The Blackness*, by the way, was originally due to start on 10th January, as stated in CN a fortnight ago. It is running a week late because, back in December, the *Old Pull and Push* train serial had a breakdown one week and the instalment had to go out the following week. That held up the *Christmas Tree* series, too, and so *The Blackness* has had to wait its turn.

## Mr Weatherspoon—Queen's Champion



LAST month the B.B.C. Puppet Theatre forsook the Kingdom of Rubovia for an excursion into the realm of the Arabian Nights. Next Tuesday Gordon Murray takes us back to Rubovia in *Knight For A Day*.

He says this gives Mr. Weather Spoon the most important role of his career. The king confers on him a temporary knighthood in order to fulfil an unusual and dangerous task. After carrying out his duties in splendid fashion, Weatherspoon is accepted as Queen's Champion, though not before an adventure which is both exciting and funny.

Our picture shows him being temporarily knighted by the King of Rubovia.

## THE ARCHERS CELEBRATE THEIR TENTH BIRTHDAY

Pigs make one kind of noise after being fed and another before. Mid-summer birdsong is different from that of Spring song.

These are among the many sound effects that Tony Shryane, producer of *The Archers*, has to be specially careful about. Many listeners have surprisingly sharp ears, and the slightest mistake is liable to be noticed. Tony Shryane often spends a day on Midland farms searching for authentic sound effects.

Here are some more facts about the B.B.C.'s famous serial which this month had its tenth birthday:

Average audience for weekday episodes is five million and for the weekend omnibus edition, six

million. Editor Godfrey Baseley introduces about ten per cent. of informative material to help farmers in their work.

Last-minute topical items, like the Budget, can be worked into a recorded instalment within an hour of happening.

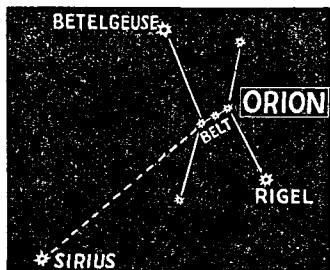
An index system in *The Archers'* office at Broadcasting House, Edgbaston, enables the two script-writers, Edward J. Mason and Geoffrey Webb, to keep completely up to date and prevent them contradicting each other. Example: If Dan Archer's pigs are due for the bacon factory in 16 weeks' time, the date is registered so that no mistake will be made



# Brightest of all the stars

**M**OST people can recognise Orion, the Hunter. His stars are much brighter than those of the Great Bear, and two of them, the orange-red Betelgeuse and the glittering white Rigel, are among the most brilliant in the sky. Almost equally striking are the three stars of the Hunter's Belt; they are not nearly so bright, but their arrangement in a more or less straight line makes them quite unmistakable.

The Belt points southward to Sirius which far outshines even



Sirius and the stars of Orion, the Hunter.

sphere, and has nothing to do with Sirius itself; the higher up it gets, the less it twinkles. Neither are the red and green colours genuine, for Sirius is a pure white star.

Sirius is 26 times as luminous as the Sun. Even so, it is very feeble compared with real giants such as Rigel, and appears particularly conspicuous only because it is one of our nearest stellar neighbours. Its distance from us is about  $8\frac{1}{2}$  light-years, or very approximately 50 million million miles.

Over a century ago, it was found that Sirius was moving in an unusual manner. Because of its relative closeness, its tiny shift against the background of more distant stars can be measured from year to year with the help of very delicate instruments, but the movement did not seem to be in a straight line; it was "wobbling" to and fro. Each "wobble" took about 50 years to complete.

A German astronomer, Friedrich Bessel, suggested that Sirius was being pulled out of its path by another star moving close to it,

and he even worked out where the supposed companion-star must be. Years after Bessel's death, the companion was discovered in the expected position. It is very faint, and hard to see except with powerful telescopes. Because Sirius itself has always been called the Dog-star, its faint companion, Sirius B, has been nicknamed "the Pup".

The Pup has proved to be an extraordinary object. It is only about 24,000 miles in diameter, so that it is smaller than a planet such as Uranus or Neptune, and only three times bigger than Earth. The Pup has only a ten-thousandth the luminosity of its brilliant neighbour. Yet it is almost as massive as our own Sun, and its surface is white-hot.

If the Pup is very small but also very massive, it must be made up of extremely dense material. We now know that a thimble-ful of it would weigh more than a ton.

## No waste space

All matter is made up of atoms, which join together to form atom-groups or molecules. In its ordinary state, an atom is largely empty space, but in the Pup-star the atoms are broken up. The various pieces are therefore jammed tightly together with almost no waste space at all, which explains the remarkably high density. During the past 40 years many other "White Dwarf" stars have been found, but the Pup remains the most famous of them.

It is unfortunate that small telescopes will not show the Pup, but at least Sirius itself is strikingly beautiful. Seen through binoculars it looks like a flashing jewel in the sky.

## THIS PALACE LEANS A LITTLE

Parts of the handsome Royal Palace of Stockholm have been found to be leaning a little, like the Tower of Pisa.

This home of the Swedish Royal Family, rebuilt some 250 years ago, stands on the rocky island of the "old town," the original Stockholm. But the wings of the building, including the apartments now used by Princess

Sibylla, her daughters, and the young Crown Prince Carl Gustaf, overlap the rock and rest on clay. And they are settling down into it at the rate of over an inch every year.

So the Swedish Government is to spend the equivalent of about £70,000 on underpinning this part of the palace, with piles driven deep into the clay.

# ROCKETS FOR RAIN-MAKING



Rockets are coming to the aid of the rain-makers in East Africa.

The East African Meteorological Department has found that well-developed cumulus clouds can be made to give up their moisture in the form of rain if "seeded" with common salt. Light aircraft have been used for cloud-seeding, but as they might be hundreds of miles away when a useful cloud is spotted, the Department now maintains a fleet of rocket-carrying Land Rovers dispersed throughout Kenya, Uganda, and Tanganyika.

Each vehicle is equipped with a battery of rockets which can be fired at the clouds and burst, spreading the salt over a wide area.

To enable crews to get up-to-the-minute information about cloud formations in a particular area, each truck is fitted with two-way radio transmitter-receivers. These are also used to ensure that no civil or Service planes will be flying overhead.

One recent experiment carried out with great success was at Rumuruti, in the Great Rift Valley, where there are big cattle ranches.

This year it seemed that the farmers in the area would be faced with near ruin because of the lack of rain. But one of the rocket trucks was moved into the district and managed to produce enough rain to satisfy all needs until the arrival of the rain-season.

## LOOKING AT THE SKY WITH PATRICK MOORE

Betelgeuse and Rigel. It is, in fact, the brightest of all the stars, though it cannot rival the planets Mars or Jupiter at their best.

During Winter evenings Sirius is well above the southern horizon, and seems to twinkle violently, showing flashes of red and green. This twinkling is produced by disturbances in the Earth's atmo-

## MODEL MARKET



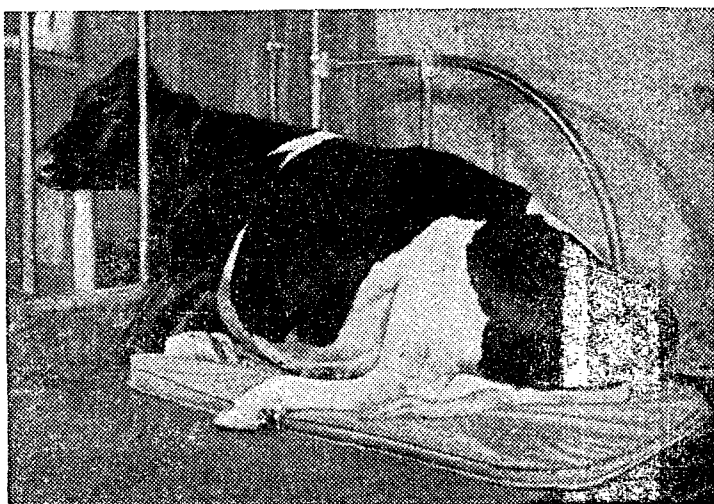
London's Poultry Market at West Smithfield was burned out in 1958 and is now to be rebuilt at a cost of about £1,815,000. Here is the Chairman of the Central Markets Committee, Mr. Basil Holden, with a model of the new market.

# Comfort in the cowshed

Foam-plastic mattresses are the latest idea for keeping cows happy and contented. They also do away with the need for straw, which is costly, harbours germs, and has to be changed twice a day.

Encased in green nylon cloth these foam-plastic mattresses can be kept clean with a mere hosing-down when the cows go off for milking. And they are so strong that heavy farm machinery has been run over them without doing any damage.

During tests it was found that not only do these "Kowlays" do away with straw and save labour, but also increase milk yields, because they keep the cows more warm and comfortable when they are resting.



## Straight to the point!

If you enjoy walking or cycling, collecting wild flowers or bird watching, sketching or photography, looking at historic buildings or seeing exciting new places, then hostelling is for you. So if you would like to know more about this fine idea—



CUT OUT

**fill in**

TO YOUTH HOSTELS ASSOCIATION (CN/611),  
TREVELYAN HOUSE, ST. ALBANS, HERTS.

Please send me free booklet "Going Places?" and an enrolment form.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

**—find out!**



# The lady who lives in Bird Cottage

Where the birds are always completely at home

JUST over 20 years ago Miss Len Howard, a London musician, retired to the Sussex countryside to live with the birds. She built a small house on the outskirts of the village of Ditchling, under the South Downs not far from Brighton, and called it "Bird Cottage."

Never was a house more aptly named, for ever since it has been the home of the birds just as much as of Len Howard. It was Spring

paper. The birds also tore lampshades and book jackets to shreds, and bored holes through the toe-caps of new shoes.

The great-tits, especially, fly all round her, and often perch on her, whatever she is doing, for instance when she is writing or typing. If she takes up a stocking to darn, one will perch on her hand to watch what is happening; and, being a curious bird, it will often fray the hole a little larger, just to be helpful!

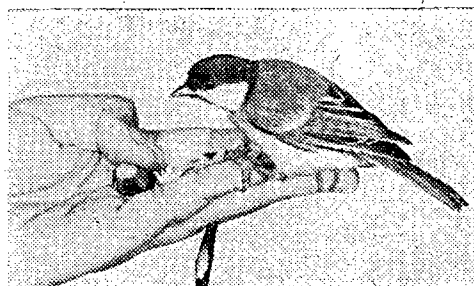
Len Howard is one of those rare people who really know how to get the confidence of wild creatures. If you read her two books about her birds, *Birds as Individuals* and *Living with Birds*, you will realise that she is able to watch birds do things that few

It was in this way Len Howard discovered that one of her great-tits could count. Star she called him, and in one of her books she tells how she learned of his strange talent, and eventually persuaded him to count up to eight. (This was not an absolutely new discovery, for a German professor had taught jackdaws to count; but it was the first time a completely wild bird had been taught to count.)

## Threat to sanctuary

Recently there has been a severe threat to Len Howard's little garden sanctuary. A next-door orchard where her birds feed, was in danger of being built over, and though this danger has been temporarily averted, some money must be raised to buy it so that it can be saved permanently.

For this purpose a public appeal for £7,500 has been issued by a group of Len Howard's friends



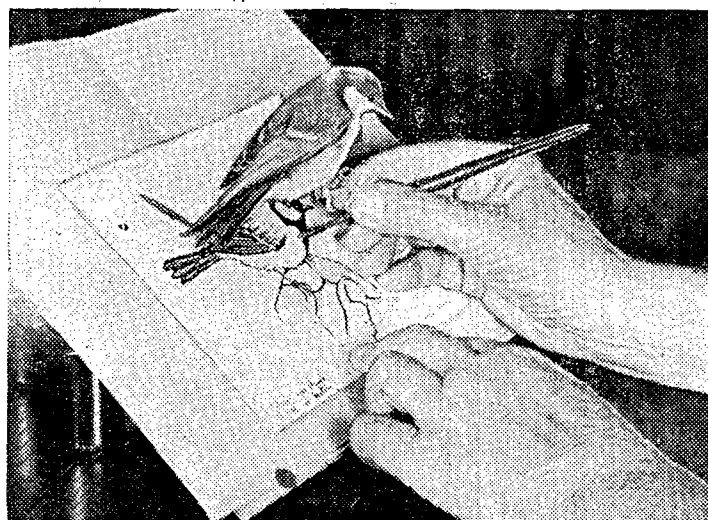
A Great Tit comes to hand for a meal

when she moved in, and almost at once the birds began to come, not only to the bird-table and bird-bath, but also through the french windows right into the house. Whenever Len Howard sat by the window, great-tits and blue-tits and a robin would perch on her feet and knees and take food from her hand.

## Right into the house

Soon the birds came right into the house, and roosted there in cardboard boxes she had fixed on the picture-rails, for the fanlight window is left open for them right through the night even in the coldest weather. It is no good Len Howard shutting it after the birds have all gone to roost, for if it is not open early in the morning, as soon as they are ready to go out into the garden again, the birds will come and pull her hair to let them out.

Tits have a tiresome habit of tearing at wallpaper and upholstery, even in houses where they are welcome. Len Howard soon found her chair covers and curtains in rather a mess, and so she has to protect her furniture and carpets with sheets of news-



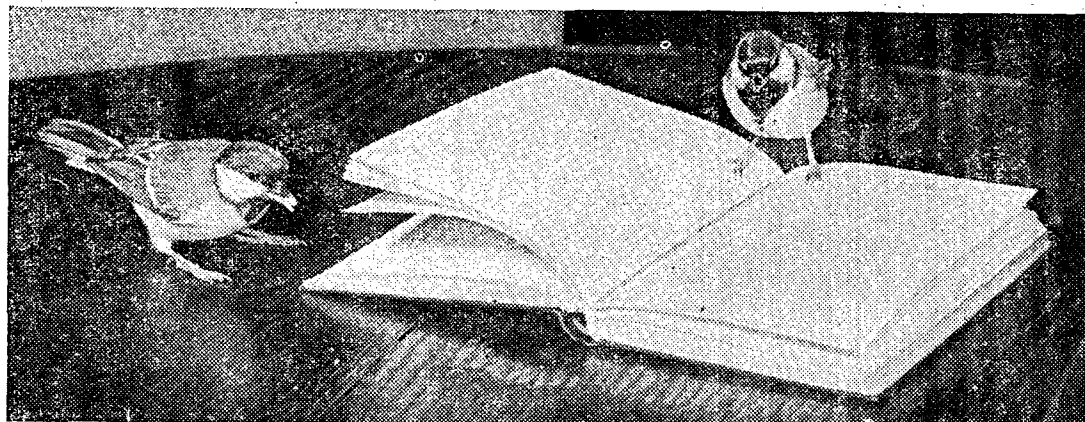
Showing keen interest in his picture

other people have ever seen.

Usually when you are watching birds they are very aware of your presence, and are distinctly afraid of what you may do next. But when Len Howard is watching, the birds know her and are not afraid, so they behave more naturally than when you or I are watching them.

and admirers, headed by Sir Julian Huxley, James Fisher, and Field Marshal Lord Alanbrooke, who is a keen bird lover and bird photographer. Anybody who would like to help may send a donation to the Len Howard Appeal, c/o Westminster Bank, Horsham, Sussex.

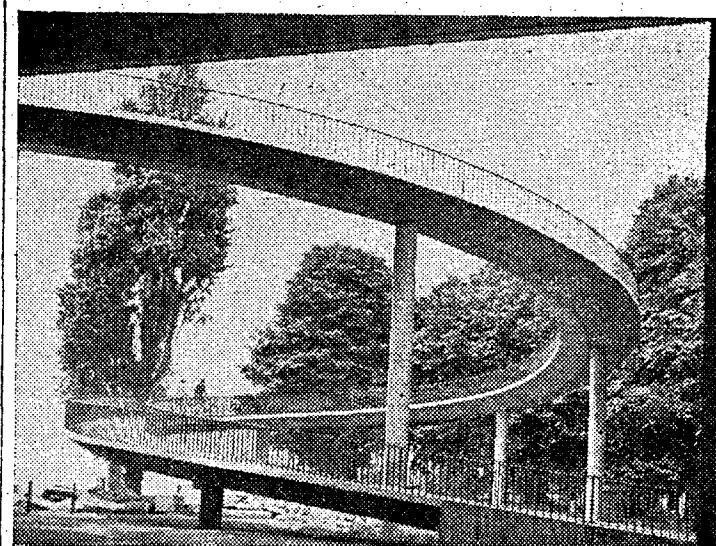
RICHARD FITTER



An open invitation to the destructive beaks of Great Tits

Photos: Eric Hosking

## SPIRAL FOR CYCLISTS



A long spiral ramp enables cyclists to ride or push their mounts from ground level up to the big bridge across the Rhine at Dusseldorf, in West Germany.

## THE LUCK OF A PRESS PHOTOGRAPHER

A good Press photographer has to be prepared to go anywhere at any time. He has also to be prepared to take great risks. And he needs that never-say-die, never-let-go spirit exemplified by the cameraman and the reporter in John Alldridge's *Special Assignment* (G. Bell, 13s. 6d.), a thrilling book about journalists in action.

THE cameraman was Dave Cooksey, of a London daily, and the time was the Autumn of 1936. A young Swedish airman, Kurt Bjorkvall, disappeared while attempting to fly the Atlantic and was later picked up in mid-ocean by a French trawler. News came through that he was being taken to Valentia Island, off the west coast of Ireland.

Dave and a reporter (the late Bernard Gray) were told to meet him ahead of other pressmen and get his story. It was late at night but they managed to borrow a plane and a pilot, and were flown to Liverpool, where they had to pass the Customs.

Then bad luck started. As they came in to land the engine stalled, the aircraft bounced two or three times, and slithered to a stop—too damaged to continue the flight.

## Off to Tipperary

Unhurt, but bitterly disappointed, they phoned their office to report the untimely end of their assignment. But the editor told them to cheer up. Another plane would be sent. Within an hour it arrived, and having cleared the Customs they headed west, spent the night at Tipperary, and took off again bright and early next morning. They were circling Valentia when bad luck showed its ugly face once more. There was nowhere to land on the small island! All they could see were tiny fields, each framed with a stone wall.

Suddenly Dave spotted a man in a fairly big field making a fire to show the direction of the wind, while a woman was spreading out a white sheet. Evidently the couple were inviting them to land!

"Can you make it?" Dave shouted.

"I'm game if you are," the pilot called back. A few minutes later his passengers shut their eyes as the plane taxied briskly towards a stone wall—and stopped only five yards away.

At the Irish Customs officer's cottage they learned that the French trawler with Kurt Bjorkvall aboard was not due at Valentia until next morning. By this time, they realised, a lot of other Fleet Street reporters would be on the spot. Somehow they had to get on board the vessel before she entered the harbour.

## A little persuasion

The Customs officer was going out to her in a cutter but . . . passengers were not allowed! However, after much persuasive talk, his Irish good humour got the better of him.

"All highly irregular, ye understand," he said. "But shure, you're two nice wee fellers!"

So next morning they boarded the trawler when she was still nine miles out. And there stood their man, Kurt Bjorkvall.

The French captain wanted to get back to his fishing, and Kurt was willing to go to Valentia in the Customs boat and then to fly to England. So before long Dave and Bernard were airborne again, with the famous airman all to themselves and an exclusive story and a page of pictures into the bargain. It was the luck of the game with a vengeance.

This is just one of the stories that makes *Special Assignment* a thrilling book for all who like to read real-life adventure, and a fascinating one for youngsters who are thinking of entering journalism. The author himself is a newspaperman with many an exciting adventure of his own to relate.



The Children's Newspaper, 14th January, 1961

7

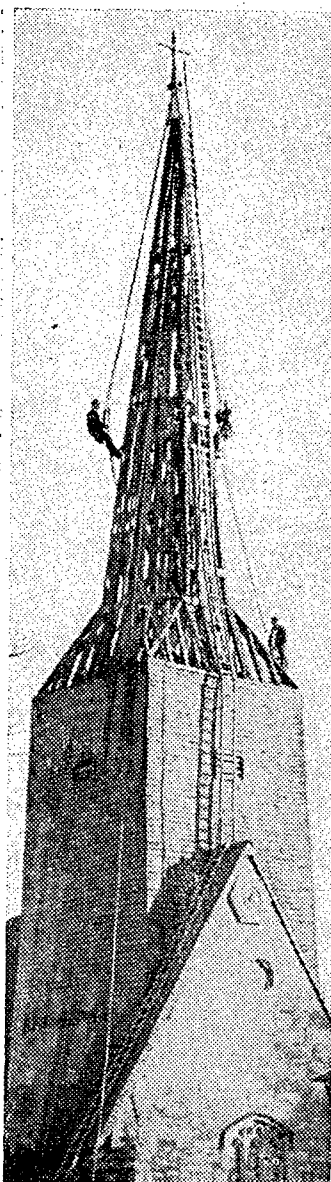
# Out and about with the cameramen



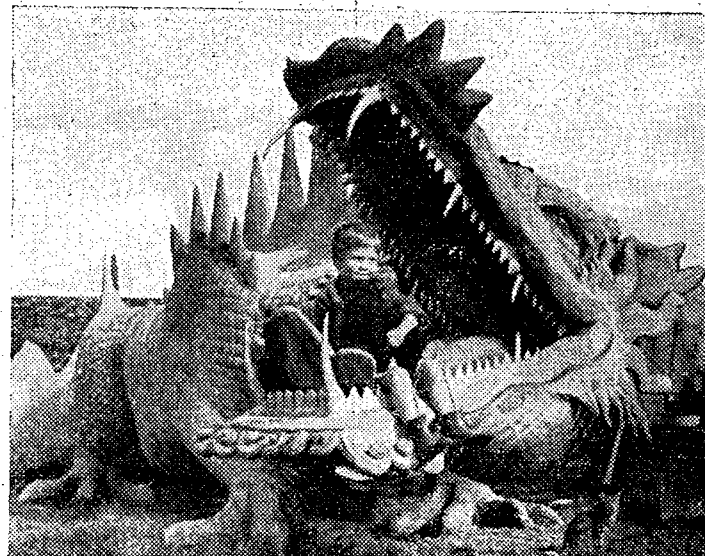
## Little thatched house on wheels

This caravan at Barton Turf, close to one of the Broads, has a roof thatched by local craftsmen with Norfolk reeds.

## HIGH ON A WOODEN STEEPLE

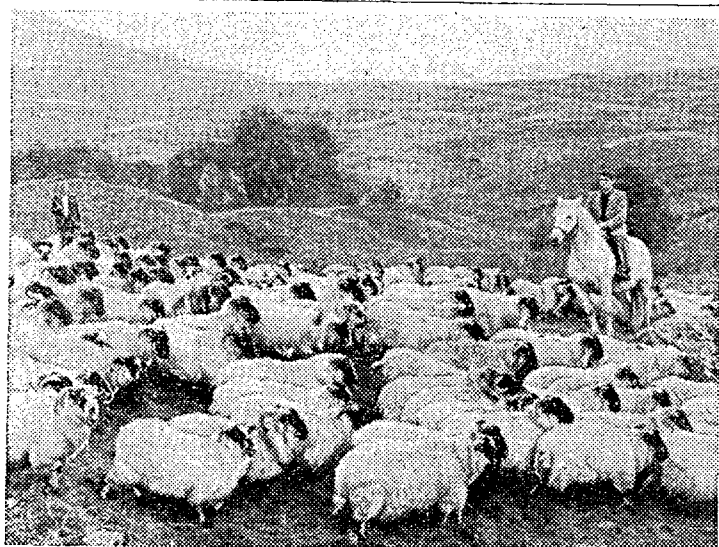


Here are men who certainly need a good head for heights. They are repairing the steeple of the parish church at Cowden, Kent. The timber frame is covered entirely with shingles, or wooden tiles.



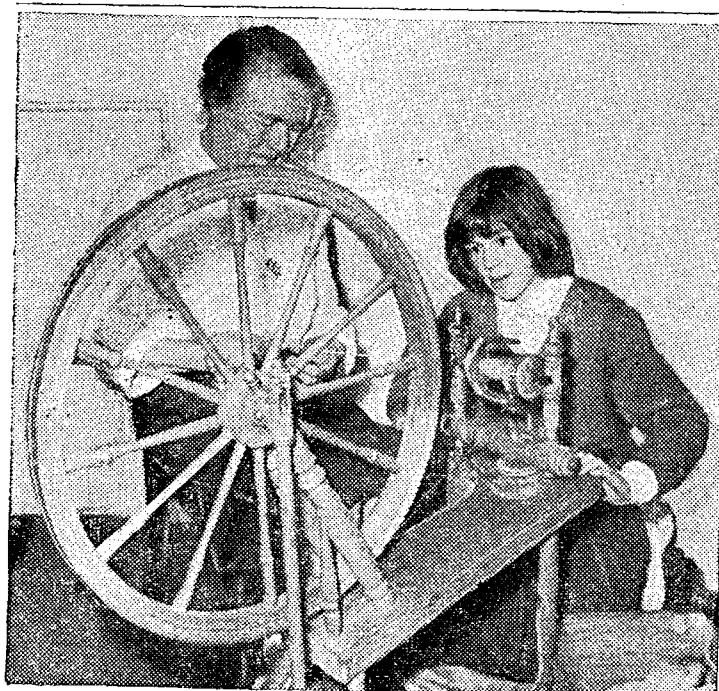
## AT EASE WITH THE DRAGON

One of the keepers at Auckland Zoo, New Zealand, has carved this formidable dragon out of a big tree trunk. But despite all those teeth, the little girl seems quite happy and comfortable in the open jaws.



## ROUND-UP IN THE TROSSACHS

Black-faced sheep being driven to their annual dipping on a farm near Callander (Perthshire) in the Trossachs.



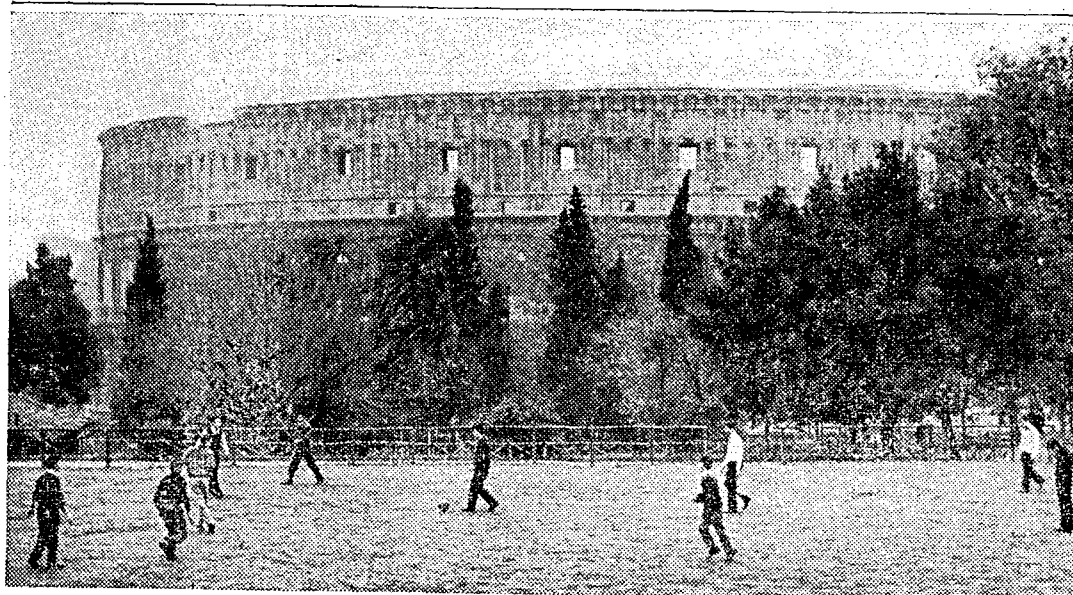
## TAKING A TURN AT THE WHEEL

The old craft of making yarn on a spinning wheel is still carried on by Mrs. Body of Wye, Kent. And she has an enthusiastic pupil in ten-year-old Brenda Sharpe.



## All peaceful in a bear garden

Making concrete teddy bears is a hobby of Mr. C. E. Palmer, a retired railwayman. He has a big collection in his garden at Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire, and many visitors come to see it.



## A FRIENDLY GAME NEAR THE SCENE OF MORTAL COMBAT

Boys of Rome playing football on a terrace near the famous Colosseum, the great amphitheatre which was the scene of mortal combat between gladiators and of the martyrdom of many early Christians.

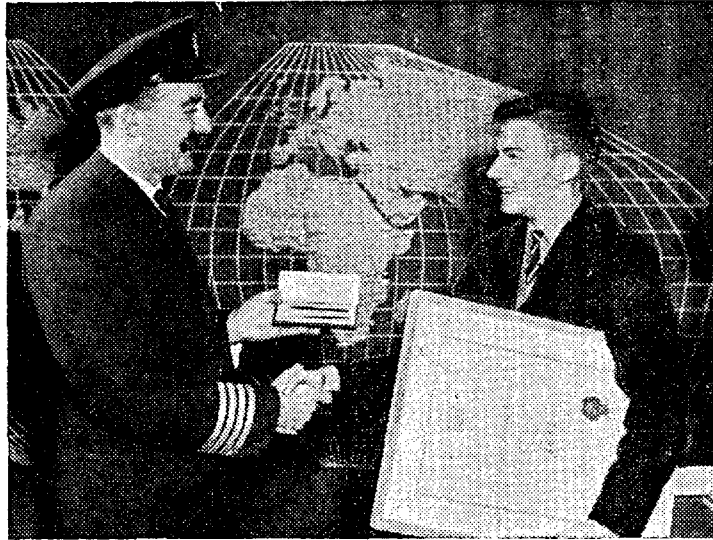


# 100,000th member of the Junior Jet Club

The smiling faces in this picture, taken at London Airport, belong to eleven-year-old Anthony Brinsden of St. Albans, and Captain John A. Perry. The reason for the smiles is that Anthony is being presented with a framed certificate and an engraved pen and pencil set, his reward for being the lucky lad to become the 100,000th member of the B.O.A.C.'s Junior Jet Club.

Anthony was shown round London's airport and afterwards had a wonderful day in London as guest of the airline.

B.O.A.C.'s Junior Jet Club enrolls youngsters from all over the world, every new member being given a badge and a log book in which the captain of the aircraft can record each flight.



## FISH THRIVE IN WARM WATER

Brown trout grow much more quickly in heated water. This astonishing fact has been discovered through an experiment made by the Central Electricity Generating Board in a disused non-tidal dock of 146 acres at Barrow-in-Furness, Lancashire.

Water used for cooling purposes at a nearby electric power station is discharged, still warm, into this dock. Into this water about 2,000 brown trout were placed, and within a year they doubled their weight, a rate of growth about twice the normal. (Several of the

brown trout were cooked and eaten with parsley sauce and green peas, and this experiment, too, has been pronounced successful.)

The effect of the increased temperature of the water is to increase the growth of minute animal and plant life on which the fish feed.

It is proposed to continue the experiment with rainbow trout and salmon. Scientists hope that one day, perhaps, fish farms using heated water may be able to supply our needs with other kinds of fish.

## The Millionth Morris Minor

It was as long ago as October 1948 that the first Morris Minor was produced at Cowley. In the next four years 171,000 of these little 918 c.c. cars were built.

In 1952 a change was made to an 803 c.c. engine for the Series II, of which 322,000 models were made. Four years later, the Minor 1000, with a 948 c.c. engine, went into production.

By January 1961, the millionth Morris Minor was ready to leave the factory—a proud achievement.

## SHIPYARDS LESS BUSY

There was less shipbuilding last year than in 1959. The world output was estimated at 8,500,000 tons, about a quarter-of-a-million tons less than in 1959.

Japan led the way, with 1,600,000 tons. Britain was second, with a total of 1,332,000 tons, of which about a third was launched on the Clyde, our busiest shipbuilding centre. Germany, which held second place in 1958, was again third last year, followed by Sweden, France, the Netherlands, the U.S., and Italy.

## Mountain in mid-Atlantic

An uncharted underwater peak on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge has been discovered as a result of soundings taken by the surveying vessel H.M.S. *Owen*. Its summit is only 370 fathoms (740 yards) below the surface. Several samples of the ocean bed have also been obtained by this ship, including one from nearly five miles down in the trench off Puerto Rico.

Members of the ship's company, together with some scientists, landed on the highest point of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, where it breaks the surface as an island known as St. Paul's Rocks. On

this remote spot, 800 miles north-east of Brazil, they left a glass jar containing various mementoes, including a list of all the men aboard H.M.S. *Owen*, thus following the precedent set in 1872 during the voyage of another surveying vessel, H.M.S. *Challenger*.

## Two-way Health Service

New Zealand has made its National Health Service available to British citizens. Denmark, Norway, Sweden, and Yugoslavia have similar two-way arrangements.

# ON RECORD

## New discs to note

**BRIAN BENTLEY:** *Sunday Break* on Philips PB1086. Young Brian Bentley and his group made their television debut on the programme *Sunday Break*. This instrumental disc celebrates that occasion. The group emphasise their strong guitar playing, which provides a first-class rhythm for dancing. (45. 6s. 4d.)

**LARRY ADLER:** *Gershwin's Rhapsody In Blue* on Pye CEC32015. As

1961 will see a revival of interest in Gershwin's music, due to the film *Porgy and Bess*, those who admire the work of Larry Adler might like to be reminded of his fine performance of the famous *Rhapsody*, arranged for harmonica. (EP. 14s. 7d.)



**JOAN SUTHERLAND:** *The Art Of The Prima Donna* on Decca LXT5616. This record, and its companion on 5617, give examples of the kind of song written for leading ladies in opera and oratorio from the middle of the 18th century to the middle of the 19th. The composers range from Handel to Verdi and no one better than Joan Sutherland could have been chosen to sing them. (LP. 38s. 1½d. each.)

**EILEEN FARRELL:** *I've Got A Right To Sing The Blues!* on Philips BBL 7421. Miss Farrell is one of America's leading singers, who appears regularly at the New York Metropolitan Opera and is well known on the concert platform. But on this record, made between concert tours, she shows that she could become a jazz singer of the top rank. (LP. 35s. 9½d.)

**ROLF HARRIS:** *Uncomfortable Yogi* on Columbia DB4556. Rolf is back with his Wobble Board and a song about an Indian who couldn't sleep on his bed of nails because it was too short. A mattress salesman comes to his rescue, and the tale ends happily. This is an amusing story with a catchy tune, a good follow-on to Rolf's previous success *Tie Me Kangaroo Down*. (45. 6s.)

**BILLY COTTON:** *Wakey Wakey Medley* on Columbia DB4555. The Billy Cotton Band with The Bandits have a thoroughly good time playing and singing old songs and comedy numbers. Football supporters especially will appreciate *What A Referee*. (45. 6s.)

**BOB LUMAN:** *Let's Think About Living* on Warner WB18. Bob is a six-footer from Texas and he sings with an attractive Texan accent. His first recording was a great success in America, and it seems as though it will repeat its top sales here. (45. 6s. 4d.)

**MAX BYGRAVES:** *When You Come To The End Of A Lollipop* on Decca F11308. This is the



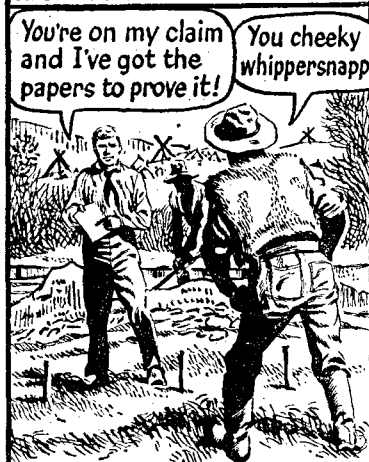
sound-track of Max's television appearance on *Sunday Night At The London Palladium* when he introduced this catchy little novelty song. Viewers were so enthusiastic about the number that it was decided to release a recording using the tapes of an actual television performance, with the sound of the audience joining with Max in the chorus. A happy disc and a sure success for Max. (45. 6s.)

## CENTRAL AFRICAN PIONEER—the story of Cecil Rhodes (3)

CECIL JOINED HIS BROTHER HERBERT AT THE DIAMOND DIGGINGS, AND BEFORE LONG WAS MAKING ABOUT £100 A WEEK



HERBERT WENT OFF TO DISPOSE OF HIS NATAL FARM, LEAVING 18-YEAR-OLD CECIL TO HOLD HIS OWN WITH THE ROUGH MINERS



ROVING HERBERT RETURNED AND TOOK CECIL TO THE TRANSVAAL IN SEARCH OF GOLD. THEY LEFT THEIR BROTHER FRANK, JUST OUT FROM ENGLAND, IN CHARGE OF THEIR DIAMOND CLAIMS



ON THIS TREK CECIL MET THE BOERS, WHOSE FRIENDSHIP HE WAS TO SEEK FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE



SOME BIG IDEAS ARE FORMING IN THIS YOUNG MAN'S MIND. SEE NEXT WEEK'S INSTALMENT



# THE CONWAYS TAKE COVER

by Geoffrey Morgan

*Suspecting that Dr. Bredon is secretly working on a wreck containing stolen gold, Fergie and the Conways confide in Mr. Thompson, the coastguard. When he explains that after seeing Bredon, he has suspicions too, they are eager to co-operate in a plan that will bring the crooks to justice. Thompson tells them that he believes Barry, the new occupant of the wild-fowler's cottage on Stavely Creek, is really Captain Boniface. And the Captain has Bredon and his gang under observation. The coastguard's plan is to contact Inspector Langton and meet there that afternoon.*

## 14. Keeping the appointment

THERE was a delay of half-an-hour at Sandford for the bus to Potter's Quay, and Jerry and Fergie were so excited about their rendezvous that afternoon that they were all for walking until the bus overtook them. It was Jane who sensibly pointed out that they would not get back to the *Mirelda* any sooner, and when they did they would still have to wait another two or three hours before setting off for Stavely Creek, so they might as well get used to the idea of waiting. She steered them into the small café opposite the bus shelter.

Jerry sipped his coffee. "Mr. Thompson obviously knows more about Captain Boniface than he admitted," he said. "I'd say he believes the Captain will co-operate, otherwise he'd never suggest meeting at the cottage."

"Unless," Fergie pointed out, "the Inspector has a plain clothes' force in the offing ready to join us if Boniface turns out to be in the swindle."

## Captain Boniface had suspicions

"But he can't be involved with Bredon and his gang or he wouldn't have planted himself on Stavely Creek under another name to watch operations off the island," Jerry reminded them.

"That's true," Fergie nodded. "He must have been suspicious all along of that wreckage he found at sea, and recently got wind of Bredon's ingenious plan and decided to let him lift the gold, then take action."

"What I can't figure out," Jane declared calmly, "if I can get a word in, is why we're meeting at the Captain's cottage at all. I mean, what difference does it make whether Boniface is crooked or on the level; why worry about him before dealing with Bredon?"

Why can't the police just raid the island?"

"Would the police do it unless they had cast-iron proof?" Fergie asked. "That's the point. With the evidence we've collected and Mr. Thompson's own findings, we've got a strong case, but it's just possible it could turn out to be a mistake—or Bredon might be clever enough to make it look like that. So you can see Thompson's point. He doesn't want to take any chances. If we can take Captain Boniface by surprise with our story, then I reckon Mr. Thompson thinks that which ever side the old sea-dog's on, he'll have to talk to Inspector Langton."

"In other words," put in Jerry, "he should provide the cast-iron proof that a raid on the island was necessary."

"Sounds a bit of a roundabout plan to me," Jane said dubiously. "But I guess Mr. Thompson knows what he's doing."

"He knows more about Dr. Bredon than we do, remember," Jerry returned. "He also knows Inspector Langton. I'm glad we can leave it to him to bring the two together," he ended with a chuckle.

## Quicker to go by boat

They sat together on the back seat of the bus, and although they were too close to the conductor to risk any further discussion of the events planned for that afternoon, they did decide on sailing to Stavely Creek in the dinghy.

"Taking the boat is the quickest and easiest way," Fergie told them. "We can use the outboard if the wind drops or we need to move fast."

They left the bus at the village green. Jerry and Fergie rowed out and brought *Whisper* ashore from her mooring, and they began to make her ready for the trip while Jane got lunch in the *Mirelda's* galley.

It was while they were discussing final arrangements that Jane remembered Amos. She glanced anxiously at Jerry.

## Leaving a note for the Skipper

"Hadh't we better leave a note for the Skipper?" she asked. "We don't know what time he's coming back, and we don't know how long we'll be away. If he arrives he'll wonder where we are."

"Wouldn't be the first time," grinned Jerry. "He's sure to think we're out sailing."

"Maybe, but I think it's only fair to give him a hint of what's going on and where we are. He'll take a pretty dim view when he

knows we're mixed up in this business, if we don't give him some warning."

"It might be an idea to leave him a sort of guarded note," Fergie suggested.

Nodding his assent, Jerry took a sheet of notepaper from the small locker above the starboard settee.

"Like—Interesting developments since you've been away," he said. "Meeting coastguard and police near drainage mill Stavely Creek. How's that?" And he began writing.

"If he comes back early enough he'll probably come over and join us," Jane said.

## Uneventful trip down river

The sail down river was uneventful. The tide was still coming in, but the wind was favourable, and Fergie steered close to the opposite bank where the flood stream was weakest. Whether diving operations had been interrupted by lunch or for some other reason, they saw no one as they passed the island jetty and the marker buoy above the plane wreck floated in calm isolation. There was no one aboard the anchored ketch either, and her tender was alongside the jetty, moored astern of Bredon's launch.

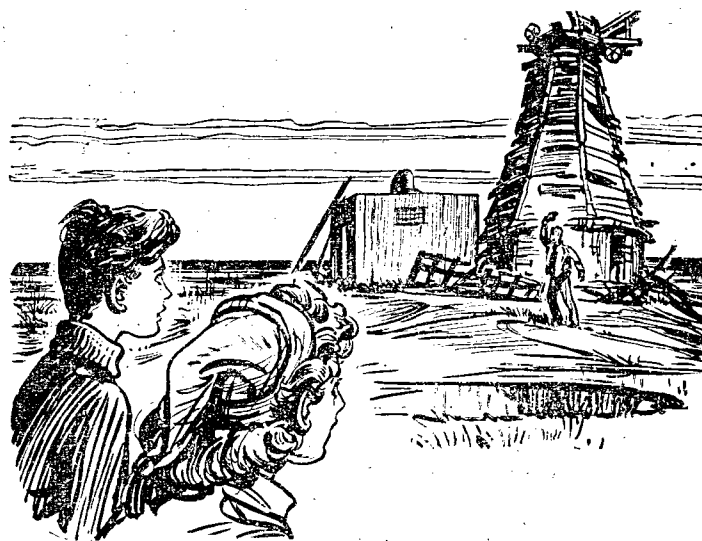
The tide was with them in Stavely Creek. After the first bend the channel narrowed and over the stunted trees along the bank they could see the broken tower of the old windmill. The second bend brought the cottage into view, almost a mile away.

## Wooden windmill and concrete pumphouse

A little farther and Fergie steered for the opening of a tidal gully running into the marsh. The boat came to rest among the tall sedges on one side of the little channel and they quickly stowed the sails. When they were ready to move they still had almost half-an-hour in hand, and Fergie led them along a track below a dyke wall which screened them from the cottage, towards the old mill.

"We'll get a good view of the cottage from there," he told them.

The windmill was built of timber and most of the boards were weathered and scarred with rot. The dome was missing altogether, and only the tattered remains of the sails were visible in the soft marsh around it. Adjoining was a small, concrete pumphouse, and although this appeared to be a more recent addition, it was obvious it was not now used, and had taken on the same derelict



Fergie called from the hump on which the old tower stood, and the Conways quickly joined him.

appearance as the wooden tower.

"It hasn't worked since they built the new dykes," Fergie told his companions. "It used to pump the flood water into the ditch there and when the tide was low the sluice gate was raised and the ditch emptied into the creek. But there's more mud than water in it now. The modern dykes take all the flood water and this pump isn't necessary."

Jerry and Jane eyed the narrow gully some 30 yards from the pumphouse. It was lined with reeds and contained a pool of brackish water which stretched as far as the old sluice gates in the wall of the creek.

Suddenly, Fergie called from the hump on which the old tower stood. They quickly climbed up and joined him. He pointed to a figure approaching the cottage.

"It's Mr. Thompson," he said. "Looks like he's on his own."

"He's early," Jerry murmured. "Wonder where the Inspector is?" Jane whispered.

At that moment Mr. Thompson looked in their direction. He stared for a second or two and then waving his arm, he silently beckoned them to join him.

"Come on," Fergie said grimly. "This is it!"

To be continued

## 3 thrilling picture-stories for schoolgirls

OUT NOW 1/- each

### No. 109 "THEY CALLED HER SCARECROW!"

"Scarecrow!" they cried when Maria Swann, a country girl arrived at the big school. Did she stand a chance of making good?



### No. 110 "KIM—GIRL DETECTIVE"

A battle of wits ensues when young Kim Felton and her detective cousin cross the path of that master of disguise—The Shadow!



### No. 111 "MYSTERY BOY SHEIK"

A dramatic warning from an unknown young sheik was the first of many strange happenings that beset Sylvia on her quest with the model sphinx.

## SCHOOLGIRLS' PICTURE LIBRARY

Each tells a complete story in 64 pages of pictures.



## TAKE YOUR PICK of these FIVE FINE FREE STAMP GIFTS!

1. 200 ALL DIFFERENT STAMPS.
2. 50 ALL DIFFERENT UNUSED CHINA.
3. 50 ALL DIFFERENT GT. BRITAIN.
4. STAMP COLLECTOR'S GUIDE AND CATALOGUE.
5. SURPRISE PACKET OF USEFUL STAMPS.

Pick any ONE FREE if you ask to see our approval sheets. Send 6d. for postage. All Five for only 3/6 with approvals, or without approvals send 4/6. (overseas 5/-).

**HARRY BURGESS & Co., (CN.63) PEMBURY, KENT.**

# 200 ALL DIFF. STAMPS FREE!

Juniors please ask  
parents permission.

## 133 DIFFERENT STAMPS



# FREE!

Just send us your name and address & you will receive a wonderful packet of 133 different stamps also the Canadian Duck, as illustrated

**ABSOLUTELY FREE OF CHARGE** together with a selection of Approvals. Tell your parents you are writing. Please enclose 3d. postage.

**BRIDGORTH STAMP CO. LTD.,**  
(Dept. C.50), Bridgorth, Shropshire

## STAMP PACKETS OF QUALITY

(All Different)		
250 Whole World 4/6	50 Elre 4/6	
500 Brit. Empire 1/1	20 Liberia 6/-	
100 China 1/6	10 Iceland 1/6	
100 Hungary 2/-	10 Danzig 1/6	
100 U.S.A. 2/-	50 South Africa 3/-	
Comments & Airs 10/-	100 Canada 6/-	
100 Australia 5/-	50 New Zealand 3/-	
25 Finland 1/-	100 Germany 1/3	
25 Sweden 1/-	100 France 2/3	
100 India 3/6	100 Italy 2/-	
25 Egypt 1/3	100 Belgium 2/-	
100 Japan 4/6	10 Saudi Arabia 2/-	
100 Great Britain (All Obsolete) 8/6	25 Guatemala 2/-	
50 —do— 2/-	25 Cuba 1/3	
25 Malaya 1/6	25 Manchuria 1/3	
10 Syria 1/6	25 Jamaica 3/6	
10 Tonga 3/6	25 Czech 2/6	
	25 Russia 1/6	

Orders under 5/- please add 3d. return postage. We despatch per Return. Satisfaction Guaranteed. 8-Page Illustrated List of Sets, Packets, Albums, etc. Free on request. J. A. L. FRANKS LTD. (Dept. C.N.), 140 Fetter Lane, London, E.C.4

## TRIANGLE STAMPS FREE!



Send 3d. postage and request Approval selection. (Please tell your parents.)

**ROSEBURY STAMP SERVICE**  
(Dept. C), 37 Rosebury Road, Epsom

# FREE 8 FREE

## DIFFERENT QUEEN ELIZABETH 1953 CORONATION STAMPS

To those who ask for my approvals.

- (1) Queen Elizabeth pictorials 1d.-6d. ea.
- (2) Foreign pictorials 1d.-3d. ea.
- (3) G.V.I. Colonials 1d.-6d. ea.

Please state which required. Enclose 3d. for postage. Please get your parents consent. Apply to:—

**J. B. STAMP SERVICE, 21 CADOGAN GDNS., CHURCH END, FINCHLEY, LONDON, N.3**

DO YOU KNOW that several Colonies have changed the design of the stamps issued on the Queen's Accession. That others are proposing to do so. That we will send to YOU, ABSOLUTELY FREE, 15 Queen Elizabeth stamps, as illustrated:

Just ask to see our SUPERIOR DISCOUNT APPROVALS, enclosing 3d. postage. (Overseas 5/- deposit, returnable.)

**WRITE TODAY, RIGHT AWAY, and please tell your parents.**  
**M. HUTCHINSON, (Dept. 74) MELFORD, MAYFIELD, SUSSEX**



## FREE! STAMPS & HINGES

Try our British Colonial Stamp Approvals. Every applicant receives TWO FREE PACKETS. One of stamps and one of hinges. Tell your parents and write now to: SELECT STAMP APPROVALS, 216 Canley Road, COVENTRY

## FREE BUTTERFLY SET

Once again we have pleasure in offering a superb gift to all genuine Approval applicants. This time we are giving a splendidly engraved set showing wonderful examples of butterflies in full natural colour from the Malagasy Republic. This lovely mint set will enhance any collection and will be sent free to all Approval applicants enclosing 4d. postage. Tell your parents. DEVON SERVICES LTD. 1 HORSESHOE BEND, FAIGTON, DEVON

## Send stamped, addressed envelope for BRITISH COLONIAL PACKET and FREE GIFT

Choose at 1d. each stamp. Please tell your parents. R. V. WILTON, "Gresham," Fairbourne Drive, Wilmslow, Cheshire.

## 100 STAMPS AND ALBUM FREE

To all applicants asking to see my 1d., 1d. & 1d. etc. Discount Approvals. Many more FREE GIFTS thereafter. Enclose 4d. for postage. Please tell your parents.

**E. F. CROFT (C.N.8)**  
Pigdown Farm, Hever, nr. Edenbridge, Kent

## 3 LAOS GIANT FREE to everyone ordering one of these PACKETS

10 diff.	25 diff.	100 diff.
Afghanistan 4/-	Costa Rica 3/3	Canada 6/-
Fiji 2/3	Hong Kong 3/6	India 3/-
Liberia 1/6	Cyprus 4/6	Japan 3/6
N. Borneo 2/2	Iceland 3/6	Finland 2/6
Sat. Arabia 1/9	Malta 2/9	Norway 3/6
Triangulars 1/6	Bosnia 3/6	Russia 5/-

Please tell your parents. Postage 3d. EXTRA. C.W.O. LIST FREE. Baitstamps (L) 18, Kidderminster Rd., Croydon, Surrey

## 100 Different Stamps FREE!

Plus Super Perforation Gauge to all applicants asking to see my famous 1d. upwards Approvals. British Colonial or Foreign. Don't delay write today enclosing 4d. in stamps for postage. Please tell your parents.

**C. T. BUSH (CN61),**  
53 Newlyn Way, Parkstone, Poole, Dorset

## MATCHBOX LABELS

100 European 4/-	100 Asian 4/6
50 Belgium 2/9	50 Japan 2/9
10 Portugal 2/6	50 World 2/3

Album 3/-

All items Post Free. Approvals on request. Please tell your parents. C.W.O. to:

**PHILLABEL TRADE DIVISION LTD.**  
6 COCKSETT AV., FARNBOROUGH, KENT

## BE SURE

to mention "CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER" when replying to advertisements.

## WORLD OF STAMPS

# The best design of recent years

A RARE compliment has been paid to Britain's current £1 stamp, which shows the Queen's portrait and a view of Windsor Castle. This stamp has been chosen by



the International Philatelic Art Society as the best design of recent years.

The artist responsible for this, and for Britain's three other high values, is Mr. Lynton Lamb, well-known painter, book illustrator, designer, and Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. He designed the binding of the Bible used at the Queen's Coronation in 1953.

As most collectors know, it is not easy to find these British high

value stamps in good condition. Most of them are used on parcels sent overseas by airmail and are cancelled with heavy postmarks. Patience is needed to track down a fine used specimen but the chase is well worth while, for they are all handsome stamps.

THE 1961 edition of the Stamp Collectors' Annual (Harris Publications, 3s. 6d.) has an interesting article by L. E. Scott,



describing the ten designs which he considers to be the best of 1960. Five of them were pictured in the CN when they were issued. Another design which Mr. Scott chooses is the attractive new 8d. stamp of Australia, showing the tiger-cat.

The Annual lists the many stamps issued for World Refugee Year and for the Olympic Games, and other articles describe issues of China, Sarawak, and East Africa.

COLLECTORS of stamps featuring the Wild West will be able to add another item to their albums next month. The United States is to issue a special stamp in honour of the American Society of Range Management.

Most of the members of this Society are ranch owners and the stamp is intended to show the improvements made in American ranches since the early days of the Wild West. The design features a "trail boss," typical of those who once had to contend with Red Indians and rustlers, or cattle-

## 10 NEW B.C. INC. GIANT NEW ZEALAND CHRISTMAS ISSUE



# FREE

To all sending 3d. Postage (Abroad 1/- extra) and requesting our 'QUALITY' Approvals. Without Approvals price 1/3. Adult collectors catered for. Monthly selections speciality. Particulars sent of "Wright's New Junior Stamp Club"—Admission Free—Fine Gifts. (Postal Sec. Est. 1897.) Please tell your parents.

**WRIGHT'S STAMP SHOP, Canterbury, Ltd. (Dept. 9), Canterbury, Kent**

## 55 different BRITISH EMPIRE stamps for 3d. plus 3d. postage.

Including fine set from the Virgin Islands, also British Honduras, Sarawak, animals, etc., as shown. ★ Super offer to new members of the Sterling Stamp Club (admission free—many advantages). Just send two 3d. stamps and ask to see a selection of our popular Sterling Approvals. (Without approvals 2/0). (Please tell your parents.)

**STERLING STAMP SERVICE**  
(Dept. CN 91) Lancing, Sussex.

## 200 STAMPS PLUS 200 FROM RUSSIA FREE!

To all who request Discount Approvals. Send 5d. to cover postage. Please tell your parents. BAYONA STAMP CO. (Dept. CN), HEYSOMS AVENUE, GREENBANK, NORTHWICH, CHESHIRE

## FREE TWO BEAUTIFUL BIRD TRIANGLES

plus 25 different stamps of the world to genuine applicants for either of the following fine Approvals—  
1. Animals, Birds, Flowers, etc.  
2. Foreign and British Empire. Send only 3d. stamp stating which Approvals you would like. Please tell your parents. Mollie Short, 26 Boulsworth Drive, Trawden Forest, Colne, Lancashire.

## AMAZING FREE OFFER

25 different Australian, cat. value over 5/-, with latest Q.E., Commemoratives and Xmas stamps FREE to all asking for our British Colonial Approvals enclosing 3d. stamp.

Please tell your parents.

1948 AUSTRALIA ARMS FINE USED			
5/-	3d. ea.	10/-	1/6 ea.
£1	3/6 ea.	£2	6/- ea.

**R. J. Smith & Son, 81 Redbreast Rd., Bournemouth**



thieves. In contrast is a peaceful scene on a modern ranch.

AMONG the new African nations recently admitted to the United Nations is the West African republic of Togo. When the Prime Minister, M. Sylvanus Olympio, went to New York to attend the United Nations meeting, he presented President Eisenhower with a special album of Togo stamps.

Last week a series of commemorative stamps marked Togo's



admission to U.N. Designed by an Israeli artist and printed in London, they show the flag of Togo and the badge of the United Nations in the first "O" of the country's name. C. W. HILL

## Unwanted prize

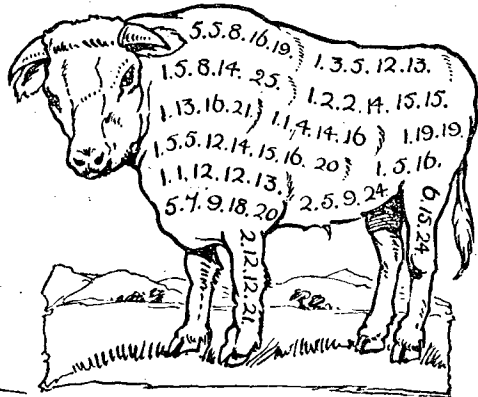
A trip in a plane was the alluring prize offered in a recent charity raffle held at Versailles. And who should win it but an air hostess! The lady turned the prize to good account, however, for she knew a 15-year-old orphan boy who was longing to fly, and so she arranged for him to take the trip instead.



# PUZZLE PARADE

## Names from figures

EACH figure represents a letter of the alphabet; for example: 1 is A, 2 is B, and so on. Can you find the letters in each group and then arrange them to form the names of 14 familiar animals?



## FORMED ON A WET DAY

My first is in custard but not in pie,  
My second's in aircraft, not in sky;  
My third is in sailor but not in sea,  
My fourth is in everyone, not in me;  
My fifth is in holiday, not in sun,  
My sixth is in party but not in fun;  
My seventh's in lovely but not in nice,  
My eighth is in pudding but not in rice;  
My whole helps the flowers and trees to grow.  
I'm often about when the clouds are low.

## Add a G

Find the answer to the first part of the clue; when you have done so, put the letter G in front of it to get the answer to the second clue.

A MARSH plant; gluttony.  
Aged; precious metal.  
Untidy refuse; lustre.  
An apartment; one who looks after horses.  
Hoar-frost; ingrained dirt.  
Circular; surface of the Earth.

## Complete the word

CAN you put three letters on either side of those below to form a word which means turning aside?

IAT

## DEFINED

A SCHOOLBOY recently described dust as dehydrated mud.

## THREE'S COMPANY

In this word puzzle (a) is a clue to a three-letter word which, with another letter added, gives the answer to (b). A further letter is added to make a five-letter answer to clue (c). Example: fee, feet, fleet.

Answers are given in column 5

- (a) Kind of snake.  
(b) Little ship.  
(c) Brag.
- (a) Feminine pronoun.  
(b) Brave man.  
(c) Large wading bird.
- (a) Sever with knife.  
(b) Abrupt in speech.  
(c) Hall of justice.

- (a) In favour of.  
(b) In front.  
(c) Blacksmith's workshop.
- (a) Meat from the pig.  
(b) Just a pretence.  
(c) Disgrace.
- (a) Remains of a fire.  
(b) Stroke of whip.  
(c) Come into conflict.

## MIKE SWAN MAKES A MISTAKE

WHEN Mike was still a sooty grey cygnet Mother Swan noticed he was developing a foolish habit. Once he had achieved something successfully, such as getting airborne for his first flight, for instance, he did not take the same amount of care next time.

This was all very well with his parents there to stop him making mistakes, but once he got his white plumage and was fully grown, and out of their care, this led to trouble.

The beginning of it was during the floods when incessant rain made fields into lakes, and roads into new rivers running through the towns.

Mike enjoyed exploring the new lakes, but his most exciting achievement was when he dared to swim up the flooded High Street itself. It was fun peering into flooded shop windows, and fun spending the night on an abandoned truck.

By next morning, however, the water had gone down so much that High Street was not deep enough for swimming, and Mike

flew back to his own stretch of river.

One mild January afternoon, after a short shower, he was flying back over the town when the dazzling light of the low sun turned the wet surface of the High Street below him into a silver river.

"Now I can swim along there again!" he cried. And, without further thought, he planed down, lowered his feet—and crashed on to the tarmac.

Then there was a to-do. Traffic was stopped, Mike was collected up in a rug by a motorist and taken off to the animal hospital.

There, at last, he recovered from his injuries. "But I had better be more careful in future," he vowed as they released him on his own stretch of river.

JANE THORNICROFT

## ANSWERS TO PUZZLES

Names from figures. Sheep; hyena; puma; antelope; llama; tiger; bull; camel; baboon; panda; ass; ape; ibex; fox. Add a G. Reed—greed; old—gold; litter—glitter; room—groom; rime—grime; round—ground.

LAST WEEK'S ANSWER. Complete the word. Deviation. Formed on a wet day. Raindrop. Cars wanted. Car-pet; car-digan; car-ton; car-avan; car-amel; car-riage.

## THREE'S COMPANY

1 boa, boat, boast. 2 her, hero, heron. 3 cut, curt, court. 4 for, fore, forge. 5 ham, sham, shame. 6 ash, lash, clash.

# Special 25th ANNIVERSARY OFFER to readers of CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER

## complete STAMP COLLECTOR'S OUTFIT

# Free

To celebrate our 25th birthday as Britain's Leading Stamp Company, we offer a Beginner's Stamp Collector's outfit absolutely FREE. This outfit, worth at least 5/-, contains everything to start you off on the World's Finest Hobby! This is what it includes—

- Flying Squad Stamp Album with 120 illustrations, to hold 1,550 stamps.
- Magnifier to check stamps for flaws, varieties, etc.
- Stamp Wallet for "swaps" etc.
- Perforation Gauge to measure perforations.
- Black metal Watermark Detector Tray—and a Leaflet explaining how to use items 4 and 5.
- Metal Tweezers for handling stamps properly.
- 16-page XLCR Stamp Finder Book, to enable you to identify stamps easily.
- Land Finder World Map.
- Packet of 100 Stamp Hinges.
- Exact full colour facsimile of World's Rarest Stamp. (Original worth £35,000!)
- "How to organise a Stamp Club." Leaflet.
- Super Stamp Club Badge, in red, white and blue, to wear on your lapel.
- Catalogue and Price List of Albums, Packets of Stamps and Accessories.
- Two special "Prize Stamps," valued at 2/9d. in 1960 Catalogue.
- Special collection of 55 ALL DIFFERENT STAMPS to start you off on this grand hobby.

These items will be sent absolutely FREE if you fill in the coupon below and post it to us, enclosing only 7½d. in stamps for our postage. We will also send you a selection of our famous Special Approvals—priced stamps which you can buy if you wish, or return if you don't wish to buy them. (No need to buy anything!) Please tell your parents you are sending for this FREE Outfit and Approvals. This special offer is limited to one outfit per applicant.

## How about your friends?

Owing to the value of this Offer, it is limited to one Outfit per applicant. But many of your friends will want to send for this Offer, so write their names and addresses on a piece of paper, enclose 7½d. for each, and we will gladly send the Outfit and Approvals to them. No need for them to use the Coupon.

To PHILATELIC SERVICES (Dept. CN.1), Eastington, Goole, Yorks. Please rush me the Free Stamp Collector's Outfit described above, and your Special Approvals for inspection. I enclose 7½d. in stamps for postage.

Name.....

Address.....

Dept. CN.1





# Table tennis stars of tomorrow

WHAT are Britain's prospects in women's table tennis now that Ann Haydon has forsaken the game for tennis?

Diane Rowe is our outstanding player, but running her close is 17-year-old Jean Harrower of New Barnet, Hertfordshire. This season, playing with a bat of her own design, Jean has raced up the ranking ladder to the No. 2 position. She rounded off the year by being chosen to represent Britain in the Hungarian and Yugoslav open championships—experience which will do her game a power of good.

Looking further ahead, the name of Lesley Bell immediately comes to mind. This 14-year-old schoolgirl of Romford, Essex, is Britain's outstanding prospect for honours in a few years' time.

Lesley took up table tennis only three years ago, but already she has represented England in a junior international against France. Now she is looking forward to

playing for the senior team—which may not be so very far off.

Two other youngsters who are certainly destined for table tennis fame are Pauline and Christine Hole, 15-year-old twins of Southampton. Not long ago they proved their ability by beating Diane Rowe and Jill Rook in the English closed championships.

Pauline is left-handed and Christine right-handed. You may remember that Diane Rowe is left-handed and sister Rosalind is right-handed. And they twice became world doubles champions!

Turning to the boys, one who has impressed many experts is 15-year-old James Dow of Glasgow. Johnny Leach said of him a few weeks ago: "This young man has the makings of a champion."

James's hard-hitting has won him three junior titles so far this season—the Scottish closed, the West closed, and the Midlands open.

## LESSON FROM THE MASTER



In the nets of a cricket school at Croydon, Surrey, the great Peter May demonstrates a drive through the covers to some hopeful young players. Now fit again after an operation, Peter hopes to lead Surrey and England again this season.

## AMERICA TAKES TO SOCCER

IN Britain an increasing number of schools are turning from soccer to rugby. But in America more and more schools are taking up soccer. Recent figures show that there are over 300 schools and colleges in the States now playing the game, an increase of more than 200 in the past ten years or so.

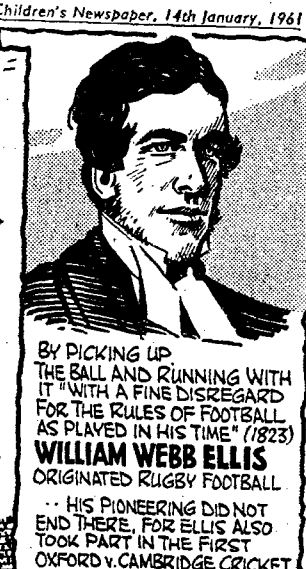
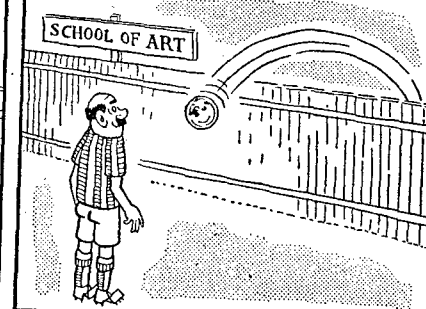
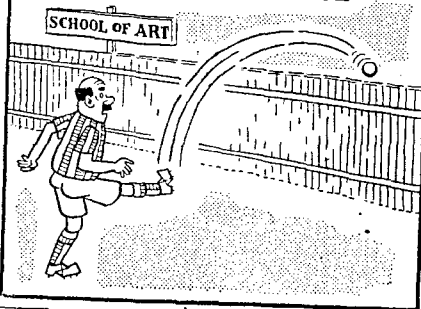
Sports coaches are now called upon to prove a sound knowledge of the British game as one of their "subjects".

Various reasons are given for this upsurge. Many American schools find the cost of equipment and playing outfits for their own form of football is too high. Others are concerned about the number of injuries to boys playing the tough American game, of

which heavy tackling is a feature.

The International Soccer League in New York, which gave Americans the opportunity of seeing top-class teams in action, has also helped in making the game more popular.

## ALL-ROUND ALFIE



## SPORTS SHORTS

LATEST aid to ski-ers in West Germany is a strip of seal-skin permanently attached to their skis. The hair of the hide prevents the skis from slipping while climbing uphill but causes only a minimum loss of speed when going downhill.

ALSO from Germany comes the story of an amateur boxer who won his bout on points—after he had been in the ring for only 15 seconds. It seems that

## Gert Potgeiter clears another hurdle

THE past few years have been full of ups and downs for Gert Potgeiter in more ways than one. The South African holder of the world quarter-mile hurdles record has had one mishap after another.

In the 1956 Olympics, soon after taking up hurdling, he crashed on the last hurdle when he appeared to be heading for second place. In 1957 he broke his neck while playing rugby. And last Summer, a few days before the Rome Olympics in which he was favourite for a gold medal, he was involved in a car crash and broke his jaw.

After setbacks like these most athletes would have considered giving up their sport. But not Gert Potgeiter. As soon as he came home from Europe he plunged into a hard training programme to get himself track-fit once more.

And this month he will be returning to top-class athletics again.

the two men crashed their heads together and were knocked out. As the rules did not provide for a draw, the judges had to award the fight to the boxer who had managed to land one good punch.

ALTHOUGH the little French village of Tincry has a population of only 212, the local soccer team invariably has some 200 watching their games. Even so, the club was short of money, so the mayor invited the players to weed the main street and thus earn enough to enable the club to continue.

THE F.A. News also reports that after a match in South America, excited fans bore down

on the referee. They wanted to carry him shoulder high from the pitch—but the ref had a different notion about their intentions, and later had a nervous breakdown.

NORMAN HILL, the young road-racing cyclist of Beckenham, Kent, hopes to win his place in Britain's team for this year's world championships in Switzerland. So he has gone to work in Zurich—and gain experience of Swiss conditions.

DAVID HINDS, 18-year-old University student from Manchester, has set up a unique international record this season. After appearing twice for the England Youth rugby XV against

## QUICK OFF THE MARK



Two keen sprinters jump from the starting blocks at Alpertown sports ground, Middlesex. They are Len Carter (nearest camera) All-England Schools 100-yards champion; and Keith Scarles of Thames Valley Harriers. Carter will be taking part in the A.A.A. indoor meeting at Stanmore on Saturday.

Wales, he played for the England Boys' Club soccer team against the Welsh Boys.

ROHAN KANHAI, now touring Australia with the West Indies team, will be playing for Blackpool next Summer. Last year he was with Aberdeenshire, and had a batting average of 109 runs!

SCRAPBOOK: Second Division Championship Cup. Only by being relegated from the First Division would a club compete for it again.